

Dear Legislators,

I am Dan Daly Fiber Manager for the Roseburg Forest Products Particleboard Plant located in Missoula, MT. I am respectfully asking you to oppose the joint resolution before you today which opposes the Forest Jobs And Recreation Act Of 2011. Not only am I asking you to oppose the resolution I am asking for your support of the Forest Jobs And Recreation Act Of 2011. Below you will find some brief excerpts pertaining to FJRA which I hope will aid you in your decision. I have been associated with the wood products industry for over 34 years and this is by far the best collaborative approach I have seen yet.

The total value of Montana's wood products industry was approximately \$325 million in 2010, and our industry employed almost 7,000 people. That's a huge economic input, especially after experiencing the worst recession in our history. And we have the potential to be much more productive in the future. FJRA can only help.

The Forest Jobs and Recreation Act is the best example of legislation that would help our industry move forward. First introduced in July 2009 by Sen. Jon Tester and soon endorsed by Sen. Max Baucus, it incorporates three community-based, collaborative proposals to improve forest stewardship in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest and portions of the Lolo and Kootenai national forests. Each part of the bill represents years of hard work by people in communities with close ties to the forest.

Clearly, this bill will create and maintain jobs in the wood products industry. It mandates responsible timber harvest and restoration and it sets up collaborative processes that would leverage cooperation over conflict. It's a bill that tackles some of the most difficult challenges that the forest service faces when they're trying to get a forest restoration project from planning to implementation and we believe it would result in better decisions and less litigation.

But, it's also a balanced bill that protects many of the places that are most important to hunters, anglers and conservationists, from the Centennial Range to West Pioneers to the Blackfoot and Yaak River Valleys. That's why we have horsemen, bicyclists, snowmobilers, and hikers all signed on. **This popular bill has enjoyed absolute transparency throughout its journey.**

The worst anyone can say about this bill is that it strives for a reasonable balance instead of ideological purity. Extremists don't like the bill. Critics include people who oppose all logging, every wilderness designation, or any hint of compromise.

One thing is clear: defending the status quo and fighting the old fights seems more and more out of touch with each passing day. That type of approach does a disservice to all those who have worked so hard to move Montana forward. I encourage you to move forward with us and support this bill and oppose the resolution before you today.

Regards,

*Dan Daly*

## **Why Do Members of the Wood Products Industry Support the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act?**

### **The Forest Jobs and Recreation Act would:**

- Direct the Forest Service to harvest more timber and accomplish more restoration work by **setting enforceable acreage requirements** for mechanical treatment.
- **Maintains the infrastructure of the wood products manufacturing facilities** that provide economic stability to local communities.
- Makes the project planning process more fair and efficient by **limiting the negative impacts of lawsuits and injunctions**.
- Requires use of Stewardship Contracts to accomplish restoration objectives, resulting in family wage jobs and **more predictable flow of wood products**.
- **Reduces the controversy and gridlock** that has constrained the Forest Service and limited land management activities.
- Is supported by the commitment of mainstream conservation groups to work cooperatively with the wood products industry.

### **How will this bill result in a more predictable flow of wood products?**

For the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest and Three Rivers Ranger District, the bill directs the Forest Service to conduct stewardship logging on 100,000 acres over the course of 15 years, guaranteeing a flow of wood fiber to the mills.

Also, by using funds generated from the sale of wood products for the various restoration activities on a particular project, the Forest Service is not as dependent on congressional appropriations to accomplish restoration work and related timber harvest activities.

### **How will the bill stop appeals and litigation that have happened in the past?**

Advisory committees working with the Forest Service will help design stewardship projects. These committees would include broad representation from diverse forest user groups. The focus is on building good projects that will be widely supported by diverse interests who all have a stake in the outcome. Several mainstream conservation groups have committed to working cooperatively to build good projects, and if necessary, defend those projects.

The legislation adopts certain provisions of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 and applies them broadly to advance projects more efficiently through the planning process. For example, the bill streamlines environmental analyses by

requiring the Forest Service to propose just one alternative (in addition to a no action alternative), which will save the Forest Service time and money. The legislation also prevents appeals that pertain to a specific part of a project from interrupting the entire project. If an appeal is filed and further environmental analysis is required, then only the part of the project that is relevant to the appeal will be stopped. Additionally, if a project goes to court, the legislation allows a judge to weigh the balance of harms, meaning that he/she may consider the impact of not advancing the project rather than narrowly considering just the impacts of advancing the project. The judge also must issue time limits on injunctions.

### **How will restoration projects be funded?**

Partnerships are productive. Already, our partners in the Blackfoot and Clearwater River watersheds have been rewarded for their collaborative work. In August of 2010, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced over a million dollars in funding for the first year of restoration work in those watersheds. Funding has continued in 2011 and 2012 and steady funding is scheduled to continue through 2020. If timber companies, conservation groups, and recreation clubs continue working together, then federal funding will follow.

### **The timber provisions only last for 15 years. How will the timber industry be protected into the future?**

If the legislation is successful at accomplishing restoration work and generating timber for local mills, then it could be re-authorized by Congress. At a minimum, many of the successful practices and tools required by the bill can continue to be used by the Forest Service, local communities, industry, and conservation groups after legislative mandates have expired.

### **What is stewardship contracting? What are some specific projects?**

Stewardship contracting uses funds generated from the sale of timber in the project area to accomplish additional work on forestland. Stewardship contracts have a record of success in Montana and projects typically include culvert replacement, trail restoration, and road rehabilitation in areas of high road densities necessary to protect fish and wildlife. Federal funding sources can also be used to fund stewardship contracts and create family-wage jobs by investing in innovative projects that revitalize watersheds and wildlife habitat.

### **What are the requirements for these projects?**

Specific projects are directed to priority landscapes needing restoration with the goal of reducing road densities, improving wildlife habitat, stabilizing stream banks, and reducing the risk of fire, insects and disease within the Wildland Urban Interface. Large landscape projects will limit the number of entries into an area, new permanent roads are not allowed, and access roads must be reclaimed when the project is completed.